

2022 U.S. Drought and Heat Webinar Series: The Southern Plains

July 21, 2022

2pm—3:45pm CDT

The 2022 Southern Plains Drought and Heat Webinar will assemble stakeholders, decision makers, and drought experts for an informational webinar on drought conditions and response efforts in the Southern Plains.

NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS) are hosting this webinar in collaboration with NOAA's National Weather Service, USDA's Office of the Chief Economist, along with Federal, Tribal, State, and local partners. The webinar will provide the latest information on current drought, heat, and fire conditions and forecasts, as well as the serious impacts to diverse sectors of the economy and communities throughout the Southern Plains. Perspectives from those on the ground who are responding to these worsening drought and heat conditions will be shared.

1. Introductions (2:00pm – 2:15pm CDT)

The webinar will kick off with opening remarks and a review of the goals of the webinar. Logistics for the virtual platform will also be reviewed, and the first panel will be introduced.

- Veva Deheza, Executive Director, NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)
- Dr. Sarah Kapnick, Chief Scientist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Juli Trtanj, Executive Director, NOAA's National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS)

2. Drought, Heat, and Wildfire Conditions and Forecasted Outlook (2:15pm – 3:00pm CDT)

Presenters will deliver an overview of current drought, heat, and fire conditions across the Southern Plains of the U.S., and the forecasted monthly and seasonal outlooks. Speakers will provide a historical context for the drought to include influences on current conditions, including snowpack, temperatures, precipitation, and soil moisture. Presentations will be followed by Q&A.

- Victor Murphy, National Weather Service (NWS) Southern Region Headquarters
- Jon Gottschalck, Climate Prediction Center, NOAA / NWS / National Centers for Environmental Prediction
- Jenny Keroack, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- National Interagency Fire Center
- Q&A

3. Thinking Bigger than Here and Now (3:00pm – 3:20pm CDT)

Agriculture in the Southern Plains is part of a global commodity market; therefore, drought and heat in the Southern Plains plays a part in global food availability. This session will look at the ripple effects of drought in the Southern Plains on other regions and the projected future of drought and heat in the region.

- Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- John Nielsen-Gammon, Director, Southern Regional Climate Center
- Q&A

4. Drought and Heat Impacts and Southern Plains Perspectives (3:20pm – 3:40pm CDT)

Across the Southern Plains, impacts of drought and heat are being felt in communities and diverse sectors of our economy. Presenters from multiple sectors and communities will speak about the heat- and drought-related impacts they are experiencing.

- Lisa Larocque, Sustainability Officer, City of Las Cruces, NM
- Brad Fuller, President/Owner of Western Horizons Corporation

5. Conclusion (3:40pm – 3:45pm CDT)

Concluding remarks will be provided on drought and heat information and management resources.